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THE
AMERICAN JOURNAL

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OF

HOMŒOPATHY.

EDITED BY

S. R. KIRBY, M. D.

AND

R. A. SNOW, M. D.

"The agitation of thought is the beginning of truth."

VOL. II.

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D. AND R. A. SNOW, M. D., EDITORS.

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HARRISON ON HOMEOPATHY.

On the absurdities and dangers of the Empirical mode of Practice, denominated Homeopathy. By John P. Harrison, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica in the Medical College of Ohio.

An article with the above title appeared in the "Western Lancet" for January, 1847. It purports to be the production of a Professor, which circumstance stamps it with a sort of authority, and thereby furnishes the only reason for this brief notice. If Homœopathy was really what this paper represents it to be, the author has been most happy in the time he has given it. But unfortunately for the Professor's reputation, even from among the intelligent of his own school, he shows beyond all question, his utter ignorance of Hahnemann and Homœopathy.

We have preferred to set this puerile paper down to ignorance, than to wilful misrepresentation; although we find it no easy task, to resist the conviction, that the latter would be the most appropriate. To follow the article under consideration in the order of its subjects, (if it can be said to have order at all,) would be a waste of time for us, and of no use to our readers; for the Professor does not exhibit Homœopathy, but a "man of straw" of his own creation.

The Professor's article is truly a remarkable production—it is so on account of its wordiness—its original definition of quackery and quacks—its abuse of Hahnemann—its libel on the disciples of that great man—its misstatement of facts, known to almost every body—its mode of quotation, to make authors say what they never intended—its wrong statements of old school theories, and old school practice—its logic—its ridicule—its wit—its pride—its vanity—its ignorance and its impudence, especially in disregard of the opinions of others.

We shall content ourselves with a single quotation which is a good specimen of the whole article, in truth, it is the very best part of it. Professor H. says—

"I shall proceed to a consideration of the dangers of Homœopathy. These are four—

first, in acute maladies the homœopathic practice is utterly unavailing in arresting disease; second, by its pretensions and supposed power it excludes the interference of really valuable means of restoration; third, the homœopathic method of treating diseases is fraught with danger by its liability to produce a conversion of morbid action, from functional to structural, and from acute to chronic forms of disease; and fourth, it is a pernicious plan of treating disease, because it protracts indefinitely the perfect cure of the patients."

These propositions show the author to be a wordy man, and not very profound; two things often found in the same person. The above quotation may be plainly and fully expressed by four words—*homœopathy never cures disease!* It puzzles us to determine for whom Professor H. wrote, for unless he has a full supply of "ignorance and impudence" which he ascribes to Hahnemann—he could not have intended his article for the profession—if he did, the utterance of such trash by him, proves, that there has been a mistake on the part of those who placed him in a chair in a college; if he intended it for the people, which is most likely—then we have only to say, the people know more of homœopathy than he is aware of, and while he asserts that homœopathy never cures diseases, thousands upon thousands have undoubted evidence in their own persons that the averment is false.

In conclusion, we quote from a review of Homœopathy by Professor E. Geddings, of Charleston, S. C., published in 1830 in the "*American Journal of the Medical Sciences*." No one suspects Prof. G. of favoring Homœopathy, but, of all the reviews that have yet appeared on our system, by Allopathic writers, not one can compare with that for fairness, learning, and dignified liberality.

We hope Medical writers will cease to call one another "cheats," and especially to charge a whole class of their own fellows, that they "possess a most depraved moral faculty," simply because they have seen fit to avoid bleeding, cathartics, emetics, &c., and testify, that in their opinion, these are not only unnecessary, but in most cases injurious. What absurdity! The following will answer our purpose as a reply to a large portion of Professor Harrison's article:

"Another peculiarity of the Homœopathic system of cure is, that the properties of these remedies are to be tested by repeated experiments upon individuals who are in a perfect state of health, instead of the usual plan of administering them to those who are diseased. In conducting these experiments, the most pa-

tient and unwearied attentions have been bestowed by the Homœopaths, not only in guarding scrupulously against all sources of contingent influence, but likewise in noticing, with the greatest exactitude, the multifarious changes produced in the several functions of the system, as the pulse, temperature, respiration, secretions and excretions, sensations, volitions, &c. With a firmness of purpose, and a spirit of perseverance which scarcely admits a parallel, Hahnemann, and some of his followers, have submitted an immense number of the most active articles of the *materia medica* to this ordeal of experience; in the execution of which their stomachs have been tortured in a thousand forms, the thought of which the modern Broussaisian, wrought up to a high pitch by his constant dread of gastro-enteritis, could not regard but with consternation and horror. Amongst the articles which have been tested by the Hahnemannists, we find many of the most energetic character, and some appertaining to the class of active poisons, as belladonna, hyoscyamus, arsenic, &c. Some idea may be formed of the diligence with which experiments of this nature are conducted, and the extreme nicety with which symptoms are discriminated and noted down by the Homœopaths, when we state, that to many of the articles we find affixed more than a thousand symptoms, observed as the result of their operations on the living organization.

"We have already stated, that the organization is, according to Hahnemann's views, much more readily affected by the artificial, than by the natural disease, consequently, a very small quantity of medicine is sufficient to excite that degree of action which is requisite to supplant the primary morbid affection. Acting upon this principle, the Homœopaths have been gradually reducing the doses of their medicines, until they have brought them down to an extremity, which almost staggers the easiest credulity. The items of scruples and drachms do not figure in the Homœopathic pharmacopœia, and even grains and minims only meet the eye, as masses of matter which have to be reduced to decimal portions, as numerous almost as the sands on the sea-shore. The grand ultimatum, with the practitioner, is to ascertain the smallest quantity which can possibly affect the organization with sufficient intensity to transcend the organic movement already existing, and to attain this, the different articles have been reduced to infinitesimal quantities, which the known principles of arithmetic are scarcely competent to enumerate. It is assumed as a law by the Homœopaths, that the activity of medicines does not decrease in the ratio of the reduction of the dose. Thus, says Hahnemann, page 297 of the *Organon*, eight drops of the tincture of any medicinal substance do not operate with four times the activity of two drops, but with not more than twice the power. If we add a single drop of a medicine to ten drops of any simple fluid, and take one drop, we shall not have an impression produced of tenfold greater intensity than that which would be developed by a drop of the same article, added to one hundred drops of the fluid, but scarcely double the effect.^b

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OPINIONS OF THE LEADING FRENCH HOMEOPATHISTS ON OUR ART AND SCIENCE.

TRANSLATED BY JAMES KITCHEN, M.D., OF PHILADELPHIA.

SECTION I.

Doctrine.

The three first questions of the first Section being considered indivisible in their nature, Dr. Giraud considers them in the same report

1. In what sense did Hahnemann wish the theory of vital dynamism to be understood ? In what rank did he place it in the totality of his doctrine ?

2. Is the idea of vital force the expression of a positive fact, or a means of explaining the other principles of the homeopathic doctrine ?

3. The precept *similia similibus curantur*, or in other words, the law of similarity, does it constitute the cardinal principle, otherwise called the principle truth of homeopathy ?

The following resolutions were passed regarding the above questions :

1. The theory of vital dynamism is the expression of two incontestable facts ; (a) The existence in man of an immaterial force which animates the organs in the states of health and disease ; force without which there could be no organism, but organs composed of inert matter, and which would speedily fall into dissolution ; (b) The existence in each medicine of a force peculiar to itself ; like the first immaterial, acting according to its manner in each substance, to which it gives properties which are not met with in any other.

Hahnemann considered the theory of vital dynamism as the fundamental base, the principle truth of his doctrine.

2. The idea of vital force serves admirably to explain the other principles of the homeopathic doctrine ; but it is, at the same time the expression of a positive fact.

3. The law of similarity cannot be considered as the cardinal principle of homeopathy ; but only as the fundamental base of one of the branches of the doctrine : the therapeutic branch.

On the fourth question, what should be understood by specificism ? what are its characters ? to what theoretical and practical errors would it give rise should it prevail ? in what does it differ from true homeopathy ? accord-

ing to the report of Dr. Cossé, the Congress adopts the following :

Specificism, considered in itself and its tendencies, is a formal negation of the homeopathic doctrine. It should be considered as the most dangerous and the most radical heresy that it is possible to imagine, notwithstanding it may have adopted the principle *similia similibus curantur*, since this principle, isolated from the other principles of the doctrine, does not suffice in itself. Should it prevail, it would tend to re-establish all the errors taught in the allopathic schools. It differs from true homeopathy as much as a negation differs from an affirmation, or as a contradiction differs from a complete and regular doctrine.

The fifth question, does homeopathy, such as it has been bequeathed to us by Hahnemann, constitute a complete doctrine ? if not, what principle, what law should be sought for to render it so ? was answered by Dr. Brasier and adopted as follows :

Homeopathy, as received from Hahnemann, is a complete doctrine ; for it rests on a physiological principle, vital dynamism ; on a pathological principle, the dynamic nature of disease ; on a principle of *materia medica*, pure experimentation, and on a principle of therapeutics, the law of similarity.

The sixth question, what analogies exist between the law of similarity, and what the allopathic school call the substitutive method ? what are the differences ? was answered by Dr. Dalean, and adopted as follows :

Notwithstanding the appearance of some analogy in the enunciation of its precepts, the method called substitutive, differs essentially from the law of similarity. A true antagonism prevents confounding under a same denomination this therapeutic method, purely empirical, with the rational doctrine called homeopathy ; for the same reason it is impossible to confound them in practice.

The seventh question, does there exist a point of conciliation between the homeopathic and allopathic schools ? was answered by Dr. Cossé, and adopted as follows :

No, there does not and cannot exist any conciliation between the two schools ; whether homeopathy be considered in its principles or in its method and means, there can be no possible conciliation. Homeopathy, being a radical reform in medicine, can concede nothing to the allopathic doctrine ; to try to conciliate the two schools, would be a step to the denial of homeopathy.

SECTION II.

Pathology.

1. What should the diagnosis be, homœopathically considered? After a long discussion on the report of Leon Simon, the answer was referred to the next Congress.

2. In naming diseases, the nosology of the old school is generally used; can we at present establish a nomenclature, which can be the rigorous expression of the homœopathic pathology? On what principles should it be based? Dr. Leon Simon reports that a nomenclature would be useful and desirable, but that such a nomenclature being necessarily the rigorous expression of the pathology, it is impossible to establish it before first establishing the homœopathic pathology.

3. Does there exist a fundamental difference between the syphilitic and sycotic virus? Dr. Chancerel reports, and the Congress adopts the following:

1. The syphilitic and sycotic virus show themselves by diametrically opposite primitive symptoms; 2, they do not the less differ by their secondary symptoms; 3, the cure of these two morbid conditions calls for the use of therapeutic agents, different and appropriate to each of them; it is therefore evident that there exists between these two virus a fundamental difference.

SECTION III.

Materia Medica.

1. Is there any other method besides *pure experimentation*, aided by *toxicology* and *clinical experimentation*, to find out with certitude the pathogenetic virtues of medicines? Mr. Ledure reports, and Congress adopts the following:

In the actual state of science, no other method can be pointed out. But the Congress desires that numerous pure experiments, carried to the utmost limits, should be tried on animals.

2. What is the best method to pursue in the present state of our knowledge in pure *materia medica*, to establish the characteristic of each medicine? Or thus modified, according to the report of M. Perry, what is the best method to pursue, &c. to determine what are the characteristic symptoms of each medicine? Congress adopted the following:

a. In the present state of our knowledge in pure *materia medica*, the best method consists

in the deep and comparative study of the pure pathogenesis of each one of them.

b. The method to facilitate such study, as likewise the practical applications, would consist in making new pure experiments, directed with the view of establishing groups of symptoms and complete tablets of morbid conditions which each medicine may develop.

c. These new experiments should be made as much as possible, with very high dynamizations, in order to avoid the secondary symptoms.

d. The attentive observation of primitive effects produced by medicines in every high dilution during the treatment of disease, may already furnish valuable information, for the pathogenesis considered in this new point of view.

3. In the preparation of homœopathic remedies, is there only division of the substance triturated or diluted, or else division of the substance and impregnation of the inert mass in which it is triturated or divided, by the properties with which it is endowed? Dr. Ledure reports, and Congress adopts as follows:

In the preparation of the homœopathic medicines, there is not only division of the substance triturated or diluted, but there is also impregnation of the inert mass in which it is triturated or diluted, by the properties with which the substance may be endowed.

4. In the homœopathic dilutions, is the increase or the diminution of the pathogenetic force proportional to the attenuation of the matter? Congress adopts as follows:

In homœopathic dilutions, the development of the pathogenetic force ought to be proportional to the attenuation of the matter; but there may be a point which cannot yet be named, at which this force seems to have a tendency to decrease.

The Congress expresses the wish that a series of experiments be made with dynamizations more and more elevated, with the view of ascertaining on the one hand the progression of the pathogenetic force, and also of examining if new symptoms will be developed under the influence of these progressive dynamizations.

SECTION IV.

Therapeutics.

1. What is the most appropriate dose in the treatment of acute and chronic diseases? Or

in other words, in what degree of dynamization has a medicine the power of curing without producing aggravation?

2. Should the doses be repeated as well in acute as in chronic diseases?

3. Do the acute diseases call for the use of high, medium, or low dilution?

These questions were answered by Dr. Nuñez, and adopted as follows:

a. In homeopathic treatment, the determination of the dose and of the dilution are subordinate to the more or less rigorous homoeopathic choice of the medicine.

b. The dose should be in the inverse, and the degree of dilution in the direct ratio of similitude which exists between the morbid symptoms which we have to contend with and the properties of the medicine which we apply to them; that is to say, the more this similitude is complete, the more the dose should be weak and the dilution high; the less, on the other hand, this similitude between the morbid and medicinal symptoms is exact, the lower and stronger should the dose be.

c. The more homeopathic the medicine is, the more injurious is it in strong doses and low dilution.

d. In the cases in which practice has provided by incontestable facts, the efficacy of low and medium dilutions (from 3 to 30,) prudence exacts that we should abstain from very high dilutions (say from 200 to 2000,) unless, for exception, the low and medium dilutions have been unsuccessful in such cases, or until a series of experiments have demonstrated that the very high dilutions are still more useful.

e. The doses of medicine should be in inverse, and the degree of dilution in direct ratios to the receptivity of patients to homeopathic medicine.

f. When a medicine is truly homeopathic, the repetition at short intervals, in acute as well as in chronic diseases, is always useless if not injurious.

g. The more homeopathic the medicine, the less useful is the repetition, and the more on the contrary, is it full of danger.

A. The less the medicine is homeopathic, the more necessary is the repetition and the cure uncertain (in direct treatment.)

4. Are there other diseases, except the scarlatina of Sydenham, the variola and the Asiatic cholera, to which homeopathy can oppose a preservative treatment? What are those diseases?

To this Dr. Croserio answers, and Congress adopts as follows.

All the virulent and miasmatic diseases are susceptible of preservatives, independently of the diseases indicated in the question. It would seem that measles and whooping cough may have found their preservatives in pulsatilla and drosera.

5. What is the mode of local action of medicine? In other words, what effects does the direct action of medical substances produce on the skin and mucous membranes? Is this action always chemical or physical, or always dynamic? or else does it vary according to the substances used, dynamic, physical or chemical? how can they be distinguished? what consequences would this distinction have on practice?

Dr. Croserio reported that the above questions could not at present be answered, and they were referred to the next Congress.

6. Is the law of similarity the only principle of therapeutics, or is there a hygienic medication, called rational, which should be the indispensable auxiliary of the specific method?

Dr. Corme reports, and Congress adopts as follows:

The law of similarity is sufficient for every case of therapeutics, and in no case should the hygienic or rational medication be applied; this pretended medication is but a return towards the old allopathic practices.

7. In the treatment of an incurable disease, is it allowable for a homeopathic physician to have recourse to certain means used in allopathic practice, such as opiates, &c., in order to allay the pangs of dissolution?

Mr. Ebbers reports, and Congress adopts, that in no case should a homeopathic physician have recourse to such means.

8. Are there in homeopathy, exceptional cases, in which bleeding may be resorted to? What are those cases?

Mr. Ebbers, having examined the question in its physiological, pathological and therapeutic bearings, reports that, in no case is it allowable to have recourse to bleeding during homeopathic treatment.

9. In a homeopathic treatment, can hydrotherapy be of any service? What is the value of this last?

Dr. Longchamps of Fribourg, reports that homeopathy may sometimes profit by certain hydropathic means, such as immersions and ablutions, but that it should be absolutely proscribed in organic affections and in subjects

who have a tendency to such affections. The answer to the second question, the value of it, is referred to the next Congress.

10. Can animal magnetism be of service in homeopathic treatment?

a. Simple magnetism may be employed as a palliative agent for the purpose of easing pain, of arresting a painful crisis, or of strengthening exhausted forces; but never concurrently with homeopathic medicines.

b. Somnambulism, abstracting clairvoyance, cannot be used in any case, neither as curative nor palliative agent.

c. Clairvoyance is such an uncertain state, that the homeopathic physician should not trust the indications given by the somnambulists, whether respecting themselves or others. In no case, should he give up the positive indications furnished by the pure *materia medica*, for the adventurous solutions which the somnambulists offer him.

11. What should be thought of mineral waters and their use?

Dr. Gouré reports, and Congress adopts as follows;

a. We cannot use mineral waters without first knowing their pathogenetic effects.

b. This previous knowledge once acquired the mineral waters should, besides, be subjected to dynamizations before being used.

12. Is mercury the sole specific of syphilis?

Dr. Croserio answers, yes; in simple genuine syphilis, mercury is the sole specific.

13. In the treatment of diseases called surgical, are there not cases in which the homeopathic physician may be allowed to make use of two surgical means, viz., compression and cauterization.

Dr. Leon Simon reports:

a. Compression is a palliative and never a curative means.

b. It may be used as an adjuvant in chronic diseases, considered thus far in the province of surgery; in such a case it should be simply contentive.

c. It may also be employed as a provisional haemostatic, in traumatic hemorrhage.

d. It may, finally, be usefully employed, as a mechanical means of dilatation, to atrophy certain adhesions, or enlarge a natural orifice contracted by adhesions or cicatrices.

e. Cauterization should be rejected from the treatment of diseases of internal or medicinal origin; it should be reserved for the cases of bites of poisonous or rabid animals.

14. Respecting regimen and the mixture of medicines, Mr. Croserio reported as follows:

1. The homeopathic regimen, as indicated by Hahnemann, is necessary in the treatment of diseases; nevertheless, we should pay attention to the habits and age of the patient, as well as to the exigencies of climate.

2. In no case can the mixture of medicines be considered in any other light than that of heresy in homeopathy.—*Hom. Ex.*

DOSES.

The *artificial* or secondary disease produced by medicine, being always such as to bear directly upon the organ affected by the *natural* or primary disease which is to be removed; and the sensibility of this particular organ being consequently more excitable than that of any other, it was soon found that scarcely any touch could be applied here with sufficient delicacy and caution: and hence the origin and explanation of those minute Homeopathic doses, which, necessarily regulated by imperceptible augmentations of morbid ascendancy on one hand, and the requisite corresponding diminutions of pressure on the other, have been gradually attenuated almost beyond the reach of human calculation. The tyrant, defying all open attacks, has been made to yield to that soft, insinuating, sympathetic force, operative in proportion to its sublimation, which penetrates in an instant to his strongest hold, lulls him asleep, and at the physician's command, delivers him up a fettered, harmless captive.

That the decillionth part of a grain, be the medicine what it may, should have the power to expel a formidable disease, is certainly an operation at once wonderful and incomprehensible; yet, that it is actually performed, no better guarantee can be produced than Homeopathy herself, who, as has been shown already, wastes no time upon mysteries—watches and studies facts alone, and does nothing at hazard. Moreover, as the fundamental principles and doctrines on which she has built her edifice, can be in nowise impaired by any imperfection imputed to her doses, which are only her working tools; and as both policy and convenience would dictate to her the employment of large ordinary doses, as the best possible mode of shutting up the principal armory from which her opponents draw their weapons of offence against her, it is to

be presumed that nothing short of conviction could have induced her to adopt and persevere in the opposite course ; and this is really the case.

Experience has soon taught her, that, although large ordinary doses produce, in a healthy body, their characteristic diseases, fully developed and identified ; yet that they do not only fail, when brought to act in their secondary curative capacity against similar diseases pre-occupying the ground to be contested ; but that the failure, paradoxical as it may seem, is owing entirely to their being both too strong and too weak—*too strong*, when they press too much upon the affected organ, and aggravate the disease beyond the point required ; and *too weak*, when the irritation thus produced communicates itself too soon to the other parts of the organism, whereby the whole is ejected by the alimentary canal or otherwise, before it had time to perform its office as to the disease present, whatever mischief it may have done in other respects ; and this is a sufficient solution of the apparent difficulty—much derided and insisted upon by the adverse party—of reconciling the extreme lightness with the signal potency of Homœopathic doses.

There can be no doubt that this difficulty was serious, and must have appeared at one time insurmountable ; but Homœopathia, or rather he whose child and representative she is, and who must be understood whenever her name is mentioned, overcame it by one of those inspirations which belong to genius alone. She bethought herself of *trituration* in solids, and *agitation* in fluids, and the wonder was done ! The remedial essence, thus disengaged from gross and inert matter—subtle, quick, elastic, tenacious, and almost allied to vitality, sprung at once to the seat of disease, breathed gently but effectually upon the wound, fastened upon the wounler, and held him passive, spell-bound, till the concentrated reacting energy of the organism has struck him in its turn, and hurled him from the citadel of health ! Such is the untangible, or, as it is technically termed, *dynamic* power of these minute doses ! It seems not only infinitely ductile, but indestructible ; since the point at which it ceases to act has not yet been reached, although two celebrated Homœopathists, HARTMAN of Germany, and KORSAKOFF of Russia, have pushed the process of attenuation to the utmost stretch of human calculation.

The foregoing exposition may well seem fanciful, since any attempt to obtain what is inexplicable must needs wear that aspect ; yet it is certain, that this mysterious power is reflected in many images which nature daily presents to our contemplation. The spider's exquisite and almost endless fibre, compressed within the *globule* of a grain, yet strong enough to hold up his own weight, with all his weaving stores, and the suspended prey besides ; the stroke of the serpent's fang that destroys life ; the drop of prussic acid, that prostrates an elephant ; the scarcely visible speck of morbid matter on the lancet's point, that conveys disease and death itself into our veins ; the pestilential miasm, that viewless sweeps along, and strews the earth with the un-mourned, unburied dead ; the first perceptible ray of the sun, that strikes the earth with the crushing velocity of one hundred million miles in eight minutes, and yet is so attenuated as to be scarcely felt ; the steam that is rarified even to freezing, yet still rising in strength ; the galvanic spark that melts platina, and gives the shock to a thousand beings at once ; the electric flash that splits the rocks ; the magnetic spell that controls the obedient needle ; the baleful light that blasts the stout but careless sleeper beneath the Equatorial moon ; the torpedo, that at a touch, paralyzes the arm of the hardy fisherman ; the boundless diffusion of odor ; the fainting produced by the presence of a flower ; the smell by which one detects the unseen object of his antipathy ; the scent by which the dog traces his absent and far-distant master ; the instinctive sight, that, from a distant, unfamiliar region, guides the carrier-pigeon straight to his home ; the strange but exact presension of winds, rains, and all atmospheric changes, which distinguishes several animals, and occasionally man himself ; the unknown, but well authenticated influence upon the nerves of stone and metal amulets worn about the body ; the sudden, unperceived, but often certain blow of death, that comes from terror, grief, and even joy itself ; and, lastly, the marvel of ANIMAL MAGNETISM, vouched for by the most respectable medical authorities : are so many manifestations, exemplifications, and evidences of the active, penetrating element of imponderous Homœopathic doses.

But the most striking illustration, on account of its close analogy and distinctness, is the well known ductility of gold, one grain of which, as seems to have been demonstrated by

REAUMER, can be expanded into a leaf, impervious to light and water, yet large enough to cover a house! The leaf being a solid body, reduced to its minutest particles by trituration, will thus be found, with the aid of a microscope, to be actually and palpably present in the highest Homeopathic dose of this metal. Moreover, who doubts, that not atoms, but organized living beings, can be discovered in each millionth part of a drop of water? Who disputes the mathematical position that an *entity* can never pass into *non-entity*; that a *something* cannot be reduced to *nothing*, and that *matter*, at the extremest point of divisibility, still leaves some remnant behind? Who, because unable to realize, will deny the possibility so indispensable to the perfection of the laws of equilibrium, of balancing a huge rock so that the additional weight of a single fly will overturn it? *Belief*, then, is not always *credulity*, nor *scepticism* a mark of wisdom. The most active imagination would try in vain to measure that *minimum* portion of a drop which first insinuates itself into the heart of a solid mass to be decomposed by water; yet, that such is the commencement of the work of decomposition, no rational philosophy will permit itself to question. It would be scarcely less difficult to fix the size or weight of a spark struck from the flint; yet of what mighty mischief is it the source and cause, we have the painful confirmation in cities laid in ashes, and millions of lives suddenly and prematurely destroyed.

It is a self-evident truth, that *constituents* cannot impart to their *integer* any quality not possessed originally in themselves. If *atoms*, therefore, exert so much power in combination, which, by the by, is all we know of them besides the name, by what crooked ways of a logic, erected upon our own ignorance, can we conduct the mind to the gratuitous conclusion that they are powerless when separated from each other? Should not sound reasoning lead us rather to the opposite conclusion, that *power* is inherent in them, and that, in proportion as it retrogrades towards the primitive state of unity, it becomes certainly less ponderous, overwhelming, and irresistible—but for this very reason, more elastic, insinuating, and operative, even as the primary fibres, when detached from the main artificial or natural body, gain in fineness what they lose in bulk, or as the keen point of a small sword penetrates far deeper than the axe, and by its very lightness becomes more effective? If

this be not so, what is there in a slight touch, or a momentary breath, that conveys the plague from one person to another? What is it but a transitive impalpable atom, evolved from the infectious stuff in a high state of fermentation, diffusion, and exhalation? That such is really the case, and that the principle adopted in this instance is the true one, acted upon and thereby sanctioned by Nature, the following, as presented by herself, is a conclusive evidence:

The genuine virus of Hydrophobia, which, according to Dr. Marochetti, is concentrated in one or more pustules under the tongue, of the size of a pin's head, has not yet, as far as is known, been extracted, and added to the *materia medica*, and consequently has never yet been detected, seen or exposed to practical investigation; and to identify it, as has been done, with the saliva of a rabid animal, is to take refuge in a desperate conjecture. What then is this saliva, the well known medium of infection? It is the constant, distinguishing sign, more or less obtrusive, of the convulsive agitation of the nerves, and, of course, most fearful and unsightly, when the nerves are acted upon with concentrated virulence by the most potent of diseases. That it is to a certain degree impregnated with poison there can be no question; but that there is any particular affinity or reciprocal attraction in the case, is, to say the least, very doubtful. To no pre-eminence of malignity in itself, but solely to its proximity and immediate connection with the chief instrument of execution, the tooth, it is obviously indebted for the equivocal distinction of being the chosen favorite vehicle of the fell destroyer. Its capacity to receive and to propagate the virus may increase with the emission of its own quantity, rising with the excited action of the glands; but whatever it thus contains can only be a portion of that extreme dilution which has reached every part of the frame, and probably rendered all other secretions, if infused into a wound, equally fatal. In short, the saliva is truly, distinctly, in every respect, and in the strictest sense, a Homeopathic preparation elaborated in the pharmacy of nature! Divide it as you please, and into as many parts as possible, it will give but so many Homeopathic doses in a state of communion to which Homœopathia herself is comparatively a stranger. How infinite must needs be their attenuation, the most resolute effort of conjecture is baffled by the astounding fact, that

even of the minute portion conveyed by the tooth, much is lost by the friction before reaching the wound, although the virus, so inconceivably diluted when it first entered the system, was itself an atom, emanating through a series of the like intermediate atoms and dilutions, from that original source, which is itself a mystery not yet solved and not likely to be so. Well! To unbelievers, who form the great majority of the multitude, the idea of such attenuation will probably be quite acceptable as a subject of merriment and derision; if so, are they willing and ready to prove their sincerity? Will they dare the test? Will the bravest of them bare his arm to the lancet dipped in this infinite dilution? No. They know better. They know that the least absorption of the least portion that can sustain itself on the invisible point, will raise a burning lava in their veins, extinguished but with life. Their stoutest, lion-hearted men will shrink with terror from the perilous trial.

Illustrations, however, are no longer needed. These minute doses are now questioned only by the uninformed, or such as are loth to lose so favorite a point of attack. Their potency has been fully acknowledged by all those who have tried them, even when there was no predisposition to be convinced. Dr. DURINGE, one of the ablest argumentative opponents of Homeopathy, not only admits this potency in its full extent, and cites cases in which he has proved it himself, but he affirms farther, that there are few men strong enough to bear one whole grain, or even half a grain of a Homeopathic dose. "Un malade ne doit prendre ni plus ni moins que la dose prescrite, et il faut remarquer qu'il n'existe que tres peu d'individus assez robustes pour supporter la dose d'un grain, ou meme d'une demi-grain."—*Homeopathia Revealed.*

HOMOEOPATHY IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

Drs. Kirby & Snow,

Dear Sirs.—It is now nearly four years since I became acquainted with the Organon of homeopathic medicine; for about five years previously I had practiced on the principles of the old school under a diploma from the professors of one of the colleges, but I can distinctly see that my knowledge of the art of healing commenced with my acquaintance with that invaluable book. I settled in this

village an entire stranger only about eighteen months ago, and commenced the practice of homeopathy, which was new to the citizens of Homer, and although nearly all of them are descendants of those who came from "the land of steady habits," the scales of prejudice are fast falling from their eyes. If the following case can be of use, it is at your disposal. Dec. 24th, 1846 at 6 o'clock P. M., was called to see Mrs. R. H. who had been confined on the 14th with her first child, and had been attended by an allopath. She was aged 19, and laboring under the following symptoms:

Pulse 135. Small and laboring.—Skin hot and dry, tongue coated with yellowish brown coat.—Abdomen tympanitic and sensitive to the least pressure—patient lay on the back with knees drawn up—Had frequent stools (once in 15 to 20 minutes for the last 36 hours,) preceded and accompanied by the most distressing tenesmus, *lochia* stopped, uterus a little larger than natural, as indicated by a soft and tender tumour immediately above the pubis. Thus much for the symptoms which I found, and which I was called to combat, aside from a host of symptoms which the Dr. had produced in endeavoring to 'check the diarrhoea'; for you see I was not called *ab initio*, but as a *dernier resort*, and the diarrhoea was certainly most intractable, for the Dr. volunteered to come over and tell me what the treatment had been, which, or a part of which was as follows, as I had it from his own mouth. She was then taking Port wine and gum *catechu* as astringents—wine whey—*Pulvis Doveri* with camphor—brandy to keep her from sinking, besides pills, powders and potions, decoctions, infusions, and lotions.—Still the diarrhoea would not be checked.

As the family decided that I must take the case, squally as it looked, and the Dr. expressing his willingness that I should, for he had told the family that she could not get well, (I think he should have added under that treatment,) I began by telling the nurse to first clean off the table, for he had raised one leaf and got the whole full of the above indispensables. I prepared a solution of Bell. 3, Aconitum 3d, to be given alternately one hour apart, until the fever diminished, and it being now about ten in the evening (for I had met the attending Dr. and one who had been called as counsel, and it would necessarily take some time to despatch them both.) I went home promising to see her in the morning.

Dec. 25th, 9 A. M., found pulse 90, soft and

compressible, tongue moist, no evacuation for last 5 hours, still some tenesmus, for which I gave a dose of Merc. 3d. This treatment extinguished every remaining symptom, so that when I saw her on the 26th, no further attendance was necessary.

Yours Respectfully, &c.
W. R. BROWNE, M. D.

Dr. B. asks our criticism of the above case; we think it clearly speaks for itself. The remedies are those we should have selected, and although we cannot regard it as of a very serious character originally, yet the means which had been employed previously to Dr. B.'s visit had placed this lady in jeopardy. Some of our readers may think, that the treatment by the allopath in the above case, was unique; but we assure them that this is not so, for we have it in our power to report cases treated in this city by leading practitioners of the old school, which the above in comparison is mild and scientific.

For the American Journal of Homeopathy.

ECZEMA FACIE.

BY H. HULL CATOR, M.D.

On the 3d of February ult. I was requested by Mr. L. to visit his child, aged 6 months, "and give my professional attendance. Some two weeks previous to my first visit, an allopathic physician had vaccinated the child. Soon after an eruption, evidently eczema, made its appearance upon the arm, in the immediate vicinity of the wound from vaccination. In a short time it was discovered upon its face in the form of small vesicles, filled with a transparent fluid, followed by the discharge of thick purulent matter, forming large scabs, covering the entire face, forehead and a portion of the scalp, attended with violent pruritus. The skin presented a red, inflamed, and thickened appearance with extensive fissures; the blood from which as well as from the wounds made by the nails of the little patient, became mixed with the exudation and blackened the scabs, which were from two to three lines thick.

So great was the itching, especially at night, that the mother was compelled to keep the little sufferer's hands tied, to prevent it from lacera-
ting the affected parts with its nails. Tongue coated with a yellow coating.—Slight fever.—Head hot. My opinion of the case was and still is, that the disease was contracted by the

vaccine virus; the matter inserted being impure or taken from a psoric subject. I have been somewhat confirmed in my opinion, by the fact, that other children, vaccinated by the same physician, at or about the same time, and undoubtedly with the same virus, were similarly affected.

I administered a single glob. *Sulph.* 30, which aggravated the eruption and produced a high state of febrile excitement. I was under the necessity of giving *Acon.*, which subdued the fever, and a slight improvement of the disease seemed to follow. After the action of the *Sulph.* had subsided, I administered a single pellet of *Hep. Sulph.* 1200, which arrested the pruritus at once, and a marked improvement followed. During the process of the treatment, a diarrhoea occurred, for which I gave one glob. *Cham.* 200. With the subsequent repetition of *Hep.* 1200, a perfect cure was effected in the space of six weeks.

The above case from my note book, may not be without some little interest to the numerous readers of your valuable Journal.

It may be regarded as interesting in two respects. In the first place, it confirms the law of similarities, without the co-operation of that potent agent, the "imagination." And secondly, it proves the efficacy of the high potencies, and the promptness with which the most loathsome and violent diseases may be controlled by them. And it also furnishes such evidence of the evils arising from the use of vaccine matter obtained from the ordinary impure sources, as should awaken the attention of the homeopathic physician to the subject.

My experience in the treatment of cutaneous and other diseases, with the high potencies, since I have been in the habit of using highly dynamized medicaments, has been very satisfactory. I have had but little difficulty in managing the various forms of cutaneous diseases that have fallen under my care. No true disciple of Hahnemann should ever be without these remedies.

Milwaukie, April 5th, 1847.

ALLOPATHIC PRACTICE.

MESSRS EDITORS:

In your number of the American Journal of Homeopathy of April 27th, I noticed a communication from John R. Piper, M.D., of Washington city, introducing a "loud voice from Arkansas," and a letter received from a

medical friend of his, of the old school, expressing his pleasure experienced from the investigation of Homœopathy, to which Dr. Piper had called his attention. As every thing connected with the progress of homœopathy is interesting to its numerous advocates, I will ask permission to state a coincidence which occurred at the time of my having read the Doctor's communication. I was looking over some old letters, and found one which I had written to Dr. Piper in May 1836, the year before I became a practitioner of the homœopathic system. Previous to the date of this letter, Dr. Piper was a student of mine, and was induced to discontinue, and associate with a mercantile friend in Arkansas. He remained there until his health became bad from repeated bilious attacks, and returned to Baltimore, when he prosecuted his studies. Although he had not finished his medical studies, I learned that in the absence of physicians, Mr. Piper, was discharging the duties of doctor; and feeling an interest in his success, I wrote the letter of May 26, 1836, of which the following is an extract:

* * * * * "In treating bilious fevers, as well as most other diseases, always bear in mind the three great indications:—Moderate arterial action;—keep the bowels open freely, and the skin moist. You are aware that bilious fever is of a congestive character, and requires the free use of the lancet. After this, if you have relieved the head, give an active emetic, followed by a good calomel and rhubarb, or jalap cathartic; your emetic will enulge the ducts of the liver, evacuate the stomach, and determine to the surface, while, by its nauseating influence, it will lessen arterial action. In bilious fevers, you must bear in mind that you have great epigastric and abdominal tenderness, depending sometimes on an inflamed condition of the mucus membrane of the stomach and intestines, and sometimes on an extension of the inflammation, involving the muscular and peritoneal coats. After bleeding as often as you can consistently from the arm, bleed locally, and apply warm fomentation with sinapism, and blister if necessary; do not let the brown or typhoid tongue invite the use of stimulants too soon; indeed stimulants should not be given, except tonics, and these only after the secretions are restored. The dry dark tongue, is often viewed by the inexperienced, as an indication of great debility; this is often, too often, a fatal mistake."

Whenever a fever continues after free bleeding, and free evacuation, in nine cases out of ten you may impute it to some lurking local inflammation. Free purging, having premised the use of the *metal*, is absolutely necessary, as irritating feces will excite such inflammation more than the evacuant intended to remove them."

I am sure, Messrs. Editors, that your readers, are conversant with the leading principles of allopathic practice, and this extract shows how truly orthodox its author was, at the time of writing it. Educated with that fundamental maxim, "In all cases of congestion, bleed, and in all cases of deranged secretions, give calomel." I went out as all other young practitioners do, finding nothing but deranged secretions and degestation, and using, as a consequence the lancet and calomel indiscriminately, to the great hazard of human life. Thanks to God, although homœopathy has not yet made converts of all, it has had the salutary influence of arresting this devastating practice among its opponents, and rendered "their practice more harmonious to nature, and consequently more successful."

This extract will have a tendency to make many laugh, who, like myself, have changed their views upon the theory and practice of medicines, while it holds in bold relief, the fact, that the genius of the immortal Hahnemann, and homœopathy are working miracles in the practice of medicine. I hope the day is not far distant when the physician of Arkansas will lay his lancet and calomel upon the shelf, and proclaim himself a practitioner under the banner of homœopathy.

Very truly yours,
F. R. McMANUS.

Baltimore, April 27, 1847.

Jahr's new manual, originally published under the name of *Symptomen-Codex*, is rapidly issuing from the press of Wm. Radde 322 Broadway in Nos. of 96 pages. Nos. 4 and 5 are on our table, and No. 6 will be out in ten days.

No. 4 has an article on *Bromine*. Its curative sphere, according to Hering, is in "affections of the chest, heart, and eyes." In croup, it is said, Brom. may sometimes be superior to sponge.

Those who want this work, may enclose \$5 to the publisher, and be entitled to 11 Nos.

The friends of Homeopathy in Philadelphia can have this Journal delivered at their houses, on the day of publication, by leaving their names with C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North Fourth Street.

NOTICE.—The American Institute of Homeopathy will hold its Fourth Anniversary meeting at the Masonic Temple, Tremont-st., Boston, on the second Wednesday of June next, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

A Preliminary Meeting will be held at the same place, on the previous evening, June 8th, at 8 o'clock.

EDWARD BAYARD, M. D.

New York, April 22, 1847. Gen'l. Sec.

OTIS CLAPP, No. 12 School-st., Boston, has on hand, and for sale wholesale and retail, a large assortment of Homoeopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; arnica flowers, sugar of milk, pure alcohol, distilled water, pellets, etc. Physician's pocket and family cases of medicines on hand and prepared to order, also a complete assortment of Homoeopathic Books which are offered to the trade, and at retail as low as can be purchased elsewhere.

SMITH'S HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACY.

No. 488 Broadway, corner of Broome street. J. T. S. Smith has a large assortment of Homoeopathic Medicines, in tinctures, triturations, dilutions and globules; Arnica flowers; Sugar of Milk, Pure Alcohol, Distilled Water, Pellets, &c., &c. Physician's Pocket and Family Cases of Medicine on hand, and prepared to order. Homoeopathic Plasters a substitute for ordinary Court and Adhesive Plaster, and an excellent application for Corns.

C. L. RADEMACHER, 39 North 4th street, between Arch and Cherry streets Philadelphia, Agent for the Leipsic Homoeopathic Medicines, respectfully informs the Homoeopathic Physicians and the friends of the Homoeopathic system, that he has always on hand a good assortment of Homoeopathic Medicines in their different preparations, viz: Tinctures, Triturations, Dilutions, and medicated Pellets.

Medicine Chests of different sizes for Physicians, with Tinctures and Triturations, Dilutions, or medicated Pellets. Also constantly on hand. Family Medicine Chests to suit, Hering's Domestic Physician; Laurie's Homoeopathic Domestic Medicine; Epp's Domestic Homoeopathy; Newman's Homoeopathic Family Assistant; and the Family Guide. Also Refined Sugar of Milk, Alcohol, Vials of different sizes, Corks, Labels, &c.

HOMEOPATHIC DISPENSARY AT THE
Apollo Rooms, 410 Broadway. Open daily (Sunday excepted,) at 12, M.

Physicians in attendance, Mondays and Thursdays, Drs. Kirby and Barlow; Tuesdays, Drs. Cook and Snow; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Drs. Quin and Bowers; Fridays, Drs. Bayard and Allen.

CLEVELAND HOMEOPATHIC PHARMACY.

Up stairs, corner Superior st. and Public Square. B. H. BARTLETT respectfully informs Homoeopathic Physicians, and others, that he has for sale, warranted, the principal HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINES, in their different triturations and dilutions; Pure Spirits of Wine, for preparing and preserving medicines: Distilled water, prepared for immediate use; Refined Sugar of Milk; Pure Globules or Pellets, Vials, Corks, Diet Papers and Labels. Arnica Flowers and Arnica plaster.

Cases and single vials refilled, and Physician's and Family Medicine chests on hand, and put up to order. All orders by mail or otherwise for any of the above articles, or for any Homoeopathic publications, promptly attended to.

J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homoeopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homoeopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homoeopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

GENERAL AGENCY of the Central Homoeopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic for the United States, No. 322 Broadway. Wm. Radde respectfully informs Hom. Physicians and the friends of the System, that he is the sole Agent for the Leipsic Central Homoeopathic Pharmacy, and that he has always on hand a good assortment of the best Homoeopathic Tinctures and Medicines in their different Triturations and Dilutions: also Physician's Pocket and Family Medicine Cases, containing from 27 to 300 vials. Pure Spirits of Wine. Fine Vials, different sizes, and made of white glass. Corks. Diet Papers. Labels. Homoeopathic Chocolate. Arnica Plaster, an excellent application for Corns. Also an assortment of Hom. Books, in English, German, and French; as Jhar's Manual of Hom. Practice, in 2 vols., By A. Gerard Hull, M. D. Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases, in 5 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, M. D. Hahnemann's Materia Medica, 2 vols., by Ch. J. Hempel, &c.